

## NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,  
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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## AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Irving place—Matinee at 1 o'clock—SUNDAY.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway—Matinee at 1 o'clock—HARLEY, Breving—COLLEEN BAWN.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery—YANKEE JACK—LE SOLITAIRE—ANTONIO.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway—STILL WATERS Run Twice—HIGH LIFE BELOW STAIRS.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway—THE STREETS OF NEW YORK.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery—DAVE TROT—OLD REGIMENT—MILLER'S HOLIDAY. Matinee at 2 1/2 o'clock.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway—NIGHT AND MORNING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—TWO MEN—FORT WYKE.

BARNUM'S MUSEUM, Broadway—TODD MORRIS PAT WAGON—LIVING SKELETON—DWARF—GIANT HOT—THE WORKMAN OF NEW YORK—DAY AND EVENING.

BRYANT'S MINSTRELS, Mechanics Hall, 472 Broadway—STANFORD DANCE, DANCING, BURLINGAME, &amp; CO. THE CROWN.

WOOD'S MINSTREL HALL, 514 Broadway—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, &amp; C.—PETROLIUM, OR OIL OF THE BRAIN.

HOOLEY'S MINSTRELS, 120 and 201 Bowery—SONGS, DANCES, BURLINGAME, &amp; CO.—LATE INQUIRY.

SALLE DIABOLIQUE, 335 Broadway—ROBERT HALL'S MINSTREL—DANCE. Matinee at 2 o'clock.

VAN AMBURGH &amp; CO.'S MAMMOTH MENAGERIE, 25 and 41 Broadway—Open from 10 A. M. to 10 P. M.

HIPPODROME, Fourteenth street—EUROPEAN, CIRCUS AND AMERICAN ENTERTAINMENTS—MOTHER GOOSE. Matinee at 2 o'clock.

AMERICAN THEATRE, No. 414 Broadway—BALLET, PASTORALS, BURLINGAME, &amp; CO.—MAGIC PILL. Matinee at 2 o'clock.

DODWORTH HALL, 30 Broadway—BURNETT'S EVENING OF MIRTH AND PATRICK.

IRVING HALL, Irving place—MR. SANDERSON'S CONCERT.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618 Broadway—Open from 10 A. M. till 10 P. M.

New York, Saturday, March 11, 1865.

## THE SITUATION.

The steamer *Dudley Duck*, from Newbern March 6, brings a rumor that General Sherman had last week penetrated to within forty miles of Raleigh, N. C., taking Fayetteville in his way. The people of North Carolina are reported to be flocking to meet him with supplies and words of welcome, and it is even asserted that the slaveholders were assisting their slaves to reach his lines. The Raleigh *Progress* is quoted as asserting that General Sherman would soon be in that city. The co-operating column from Newbern had penetrated to within a few miles of Kinston. No information of Sherman's position is given by the rebel papers, from which we glean an interesting description of the evacuation of Columbia and the usual boasts of Sherman's failure and impending ruin.

The news from the South is meagre and generally unimportant. The appeal of Governor Vance to the people of North Carolina to feed Lee's army is a significant document, following, as it does, on the heels of his late appeal to the Georgians and the public meetings at Danville. He states, in effect, that the rebel authorities, the Commissary General, and Lee himself, have declared that since the destruction of communication by Sherman's movements the means for supplying the army at Richmond are insufficient, and that it must, for a few months at least, depend on the voluntary contributions of the people of North Carolina and Virginia.

President Lincoln has issued a proclamation, in accordance with the requirements of the amended Enrollment act, notifying all deserters from the military or naval service to report for duty within sixty days from the 10th instant, or they will be deemed to have forfeited all rights of citizenship henceforth. Persons who quit the country to avoid being drafted into the military or naval service are held to be liable to the same penalty. The proclamation also grants a full pardon to all deserters who may return to their duty within the specified time.

An extensive contraband trade has been carried on for some time past on the Rappahannock river, which it has been deemed advisable to break up. Accordingly, a fleet of light draft transports and gunboats, with a body of troops, were recently despatched from Fortress Monroe for that purpose. While proceeding up the Rappahannock river a schooner loaded with whiskey and salt was captured, and the cargo being removed, the vessel was blown up. On reaching Fredericksburg the town was found to be garrisoned by a squad of rebels, who immediately fled, making no resistance to the landing of our troops. Here ninety-five tons of manufactured tobacco, valued at \$350,000, was captured, the country round about thoroughly scoured, four hundred prisoners captured, and the contraband trade effectually broken up. As the expedition passed down the river numbers of rebel deserters came off from the shores, among them eight men belonging to the Twenty-fourth Virginia cavalry.

We have advices from New Orleans to the 4th inst., but they contain no military news of importance. Eleven cars ran off the track of the Opelousas Railroad on the 3d inst., killing ten and maiming thirty-nine members of the Thirty-third Illinois regiment.

The rebel Major General Whiting, who was taken prisoner at Fort Fisher, died of wounds received in the battle at that place, at Governor's Island yesterday, and will be buried from Trinity church to-day.

## CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday the credentials of Mr. Creswell, the new Senator from Maryland, were presented, and he was qualified and took his seat. Mr. Lane, of Kansas, moved that the resolution allowing pay and mileage to claimants of seats from Louisiana and Arkansas be considered. The Auditing Committee of the Senate have reported adversely on the proposition. After some debate Mr. Trumbull moved to amend the resolution so as to pay only the Louisiana claimants, and pending the question the Senate went into executive session, and afterwards adjourned. Among the nominations confirmed was that of ex-Senator John P. Hale, of New Hampshire, as Minister to Spain.

## THE LEGISLATURE.

In the State Senate yesterday bills were noticed re-

lative to sewerage and drainage in New York; to amend the act relative to places of amusement and concert saloons; to compel the New York and New Haven Railroad Company to stop express trains in Westchester county, and to regulate the rate of fare; to amend the charter of the city of New York; also, to incorporate the Young Men's Father Matthew Total Abstinence Mutual Benefit Association of this city. Bills were introduced to authorize the construction of a tunnel under Broadway, for the relief of New York dispensaries; and providing for the care of destitute children in Brooklyn. A report was presented providing for the more effectual cleaning of the streets in New York. A resolution was adopted in caucus by the republican Senators, on the subject of the Central Railroad fare question, declaring it inexpedient to remove the restrictions at this time, and recommending the defeat of the bill.

In the Assembly bills were reported to change the name of the New York Free Academy; to incorporate the New York Infant Asylum; to incorporate the Worth Lodge of Freemasons of New York; to authorize the Dry Dock, Broadway and Battery Railroad Company to extend their track; to authorize the use of cars instead of stages over the route of the Bull's Head stage line; and to incorporate the Accidental Insurance Company. A bill was introduced to amend the act relative to the distance between bridges and Correction in New York. Bills were passed to amend the charter of the People's Savings Bank of New York; changing the name of the Bloomingdale Savings Bank to the Third Avenue Savings Bank; and to incorporate the New York Infant Asylum.

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The stock market was lower and panicky yesterday. Governments were steady. Gold was weak and declined to 136 1/2, but closed at 139 1/2 down town. At the evening board gold was very active, and closed at 139 1/2.

The fall in gold, combined with and growing out of the increasing indications that the rebellion is in its last throes, had the effect of unsettling the markets yesterday, and prices of nearly everything on the calendar were nominal. Almost any kind of goods could have been bought at lower prices than on Thursday, and nearly all the sales reported were at lower prices. Cotton was dull and 5c. lower. Petroleum was also dull and nominal. Groceries were decidedly lower. On "Change the flour market ruled quiet, and prices of the choice grades declined 25c. a 50c. per bush. Wheat was more active, but 5c. a 7c. lower. Corn was in limited demand, and lower, having sold at a decline of 5c. a 10c. Oats were dull and heavy. The pork market opened dull and decidedly lower, but closed firm, with a fair inquiry. Beef dull and depressed. Lard was 3c. lower, while whiskey declined 1c., with only a moderate demand. Freight was scarcely over so dull, and rates were nominal.

The United States Supreme Court yesterday decided a case involving many interesting international and municipal questions in the law of prize. It was that of the *United States*, appellant, against seventy-two bales of cotton, Elizabeth Alexander being the claimant, on appeal from the Southern District Court of Illinois, which had awarded restitution to her. This was a test case, involving all the cotton, valued at over two millions of dollars, captured by the navy during the Red river expedition. The cotton was claimed by the navy as lawful prize of war, on the ground of belligerent rights, that part of Louisiana being under the control of the rebels. The cotton was taken on land, at various distances from the water, teams having been sent out to gather it. The claimant took the amnesty oath under the proclamation of the President, although she had taken no part in the rebellion. The argument occupied several days. The Court, through Chief Justice Chase, decided that there could be no seizure as prize of war of private property by the navy on the inland waters of the United States or on the land, since the acts of Congress of 1861, 1862, 1863 and 1864, and that, therefore, this property was not, in that view, lawful prize of war. But the Court thought the property should have been turned over to the Treasury officers, as captured or abandoned property, under the act of March 13, 1863. The libel was ordered to be dismissed. Thus the navy was ignored in this case. The Court also held that the possession of the Red river country was temporary, and not enough to secure rights of property to the citizens of that part of Louisiana, and that the election then held in the Red river country was not legal and conferred no rights.

The steamship *Edinburg*, Captain Rockell, of the Inman line, sails at noon to-day for Queenstown and Liverpool, taking the mails for Ireland. The steamship *New York*, for Southampton and Bremen, also sails at noon to-day, taking the mails for Great Britain and the Continent, which close at half-past ten A. M. for both vessels. The Bremen of New York held a meeting last evening at Firemen's Hall, and adopted a series of resolutions remonstrating against the passage of the bill now before the Legislature establishing a paid fire department until the change shall have been asked for by the people of this city.

The internal revenue officers recently seized the stock of snuff and tobacco of Messrs. Edels & Berkovitch, who had removed it, it is alleged, from Seventeenth to Thomas street, to avoid the payment of tax on their manufactures. An officer was placed in charge of the premises, and during his temporary absence the premises were entered, the building and its contents were looted, and the goods were taken, as is supposed, to setting fire to them. The goods were insured to nearly double their value. Israel Levi was arrested on suspicion of complicity in the contemplated incendiarism.

The argument for the contestants in the E. P. Christy will case was concluded before the Surrogate yesterday. Recruiting was quite brisk at the Supervisors' Committee rooms yesterday, and the applications for substitutes were more numerous than heretofore. Neatness subscriptions to the bounty loan continue to pour in very liberally. Still the order for a draft on the 15th inst. remains unrevoked, but vigorous recruiting may lead to a postponement.

In the General Sessions yesterday Judge Russell sentenced the prisoners who were remanded during the week. John Tierney, who was convicted of burglary in the third degree, was sent to the State Prison for four years. John Moore, convicted of a similar offense, was sentenced to the State Prison for two years. Joseph Brennan, guilty of petty larceny, was sent to the Penitentiary for six months, and James J. O'Brien, convicted of the same offense, was sentenced to the Penitentiary for six months.

Wm. Thompson, indicted for burglary in the second degree, with Samuel Rivers (who was convicted last week), was convicted of grand larceny, the prosecution failing to prove the burglary. On the 23d of January he stole watches and other jewelry worth \$93 from the premises of Edward Lorch, 49 1/2 Columbia street. He was sentenced to three years' imprisonment in the State Prison. Michael Hayes, charged with stealing a quantity of rope from a coal boat in Jersey City, was acquitted, he having proved that he bought the property from James King. Ann Murphy, indicted for stealing \$37 from Catherine Remie, at 162 West Broadway, was acquitted. The Grand Jury brought in some indictments against prisoners for various offenses, to which they pleaded not guilty.

A battalion of the foreign legion, which was in garrison at Aix, France, arrived at Toulon, February 22. It embarked next day on board the steam transport which is to convey it to Mexico, where it has volunteered to serve two years.

Despatches from St. Petersburg contain advices from Khabla (Rising Asia), which state that on the 15th of January a rising of the Doungans against the Mandjurians had taken place at Tchongtoushak. The attack was taken and burned, and the commander killed. The Russian Consul succeeded in escaping with the funds and archives of the consulate.

On the 25th ult. the mail train from Chattanooga for Knoxville, Tennessee, met with a singular accident when passing through the tunnel. From some cause a couple of the iron braces which supported the arch fell down and hung over the track. The first four cars after the engine were loaded with army wagons. As the train passed under the hanging braces they caught the wagons and swept them back, jamming them up against the box cars, and killing two and wounding three of the soldiers on the cars.

On the morning of the 1st inst. a train on the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad was thrown from the track at Smyrna station by the misplacement of a switch, and three persons were killed and several severely injured. Among the latter was Captain W. V. Cushing, the Military Conductor.

On the 27th ult. an accident occurred on the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad, a short distance below New Comestown. The road here is very near the river, and had been undergoing some repairs by the late rise that it gave way, precipitating the engine and tender into the water, and drowning the fireman.

On the 21st inst. a collision—the result of gross carelessness on the part of one of the conductors—occurred on the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad, near Grovetown, by which the engineer of one of the trains was instantly killed and a number of passengers injured.

## The Reign of Terror at Richmond—Strong Signs of a Collapse Without Another Battle.

Of all the cities in Christendom there is none in which the civil authorities, the military and the inhabitants generally, are at this time in the dreadful situation of those at Richmond. There may now be seen all the elements of destruction, despair, distrust, discords and conspiracies in full play. As the coils of the Union armies tighten around the doomed city; as the arch traitor of this rebellion and his ruling confederates find themselves cut off from their sources of supply and their lines of retreat; as they are startled in the evening by reports of thickening disasters in the field, and are warned in the morning of increasing desertions from their camps at night, they turn to plots, and threats, and force denunciations among themselves. This man accuses that man, or this clique the other, as causing the sufferings and humiliations for which they are responsible. The base passions which carried them all headlong into their insane revolt are now, in "their last ditch," driving them to the extremity of denouncing each other.

"What mean these rumors," asks a correspondent of the *Richmond Enquirer*—"these rumors of senatorial committees, approaching the President to submit terms of submission? Is that report true? Are any Senators or Representatives whipped? Have they approached the President to press upon him any such base propositions? Who were the Senators? What were the propositions? Is there any plan on foot to compromise with subjugation, or resign? Is there any one else to volunteer resignation in case he (Jeff. Davis) is forced to vacate?" Is the hint afforded that General Lee is ready to consider terms for laying down arms? Who are busy in these plans? Let us know the worst that the summary remedy may be applied." The *Enquirer* editor, in answer to these questions, says he has "no doubt that a plan was on foot to force Mr. Davis to resign, and that Mr. Stephens (Vice President) had consented to resign, so that Mr. Hunter, as President of the Senate, would become President." But, says the *Enquirer*, in its impotent rage, in this extremity Robert E. Lee "will grasp the sceptre they may wrench from the hands of Mr. Davis," and "no cabal of whipped seceders shall capitulate their country into slavery and crouch at the footstool of Mr. Lincoln."

From these significant revelations it is evident that the peace party at Richmond do not intend to rest short of the removal of Jeff. Davis. He is implacable and resolved upon destruction, and they are resolved to displace him. But the *Sentinel*, the confidential organ of Davis, tells these conspirators that he will fight them, that he and his party "do not intend to be sold out or betrayed by them. Let them be sure that such is the temper of the public mind that to attempt this (the selling out of Jeff.) would be as much as the man's life would be worth. If he (Jeff. and his supporters) cannot find law in the books for such cases we will be a law unto ourselves"—in other words, Jeff., if necessary, will take the law into his own hands, and hang up a few of these conspirators—these "whipped seceders," these "very men who, the foremost to secede, are the first to surrender."

We doubt not that Senator Hunter is among the men thus pointed at. It was his vote that defeated the bill in the rebel Congress for arming the negroes. He was one of the rebel commissioners in the late Hampton Roads peace conference, the rebel Vice President Stephens and the late United States Judge Campbell being the other two. Directly after their return to Richmond, Stephens and Campbell disappeared, and have not since been heard of. They have left the implacable Jeff. to his fate. Hunter, as President of the rebel Senate, was compelled to stay, and compelled to make a war speech. But it was a cold affair, and in it there were no denunciations of Abraham Lincoln. That war splutter got up by Jeff. was a short-lived affair, like a crackling fire of dry weeds. The shouts of the rebel soldiers, in honor of their peace commissioners as they were going out, were not repeated on their return. On the contrary, since their return, the desertions from Lee's army have increased from tens and twenties to fifties and hundreds every day.

We have the same story from South Carolina. The detachments from Gilmore's column, sent out to scour the country inland from Charleston and Georgetown, meet with little or no resistance, but find the swamps very lively with rebel deserters. We guess, too, that Joe Johnston has no information to give of Sherman's movements, because the rebel forces of North Carolina are too weak and demoralized to be trusted within striking distance of Sherman. But, looking only at the condition of things in Richmond, we shall not be surprised if at any moment now we hear from General Grant that Jeff. Davis has abdicated and fled to parts unknown, and that Senator Hunter, as acting President of a defunct confederacy, has under a flag of truce, asked for another hearing in behalf of peace.

SECRETARY McCULLOCH'S SPEECH.—It is customary when a new Cabinet official enters upon his office for the subordinates of the department to wait upon him and tender their respects and congratulations. Such has been done upon the elevation of Mr. Hugh McCulloch to the office of Secretary of the Treasury, and that gentleman took the opportunity of making a speech which we regard as the best and most pertinent that has been made by any head of that department for many years. Among other sensible things Mr. McCulloch said:—

"My chief aim will, of course, be to provide means to discharge the claims upon the Treasury at the earliest day practicable, and to institute measures to bring the business of the country gradually back to the specie basis, a departure from which, although for the time being a necessity, is no less damaging and demoralizing to the people than expensive to the government."

This is the key to the whole philosophy of the Treasury Department, which Mr. McCulloch appears to thoroughly understand, and if he only keeps these sentiments constantly before him, it is quite probable that, with the immense resources of the country, we shall soon be free from all financial embarrassments.

THE SAVANNAH COTTON GOING TO ENGLAND.—We see it stated that Secretary McCulloch has decided to send the cotton, about thirty-five thousand bales, which was captured at Savannah, to the British market. We recommend the adoption of such a course immediately upon the receipt of the news of the taking of that city, and we are glad to see that the new Secretary has taken advantage of the suggestion, and thus early giving evidence that he possesses that practical ability which is so essential to the duties of his position, and of

which his predecessors displayed such a lamentable lack. The cotton referred to would bring at present prices in England five and a half millions of dollars in gold, and it can easily be spared on this side without encroaching upon the requirements of our own manufactures.

## Foreign Commerce With Mexico—The Mistake of England.

As a most striking commentary upon the mistake the English government has made in not delaying its recognition of the so-called imperial government which Louis Napoleon has sought to impose upon Mexico, and of the English merchants who have favored his intervention in that country, and have claimed that great advantages to English commerce would result therefrom, we republish from our foreign files this morning a complaint addressed by Rothschild & Sons, Baring Brothers & Co., F. Huth & Co. and other English merchants, to Earl Russell, with regard to certain "unusual and arbitrary proceedings" which have taken place at Tampico on the part of the French authorities in Mexico, and by which it appears that hereafter English merchants desiring to ship specie from Mexico cannot do so by the usual and old established channels; that is, by the English line of mail steamers, by which, from time immemorial, these shipments have been effected and insurance has been arranged; but they must now, "by force, if necessary," make such shipments by the French line of steamers, and to France instead of to England.

The eminent commercial houses who memorialize Earl Russell ask his lordship to instruct, as soon as practicable, the accredited representatives of her Majesty's government in Mexico to take measures to prevent the recurrence of such extraordinary proceedings, and to secure to the shippers of bullion that freedom of action which they have always hitherto enjoyed, and which it is so desirable in the interest of commerce that they should continue to exercise." But is it probable that Mr. Scarlett, the newly received representative of her Majesty, will be able to change the purpose—the whole end of the French intervention in Mexico? That purpose was to serve and promote the commerce of France, not that of England. Stability and order in Mexico were very desirable; but they were desirable to Louis Napoleon because he wished to build up French commerce with that country. The fact is, however, both France and England have made a mistake in this business. They have entangled upon this intervention in Mexico under the belief that the United States would be powerless to have any voice in the matter hereafter, and that they could do as they pleased. The restoration of the Union changes all this. It must now be admitted by all that the United States are to have a voice in the matter. That voice has been pronounced against the empire and in favor of the republic, which President Juarez is still sustaining. Consequently all the plans of Louis Napoleon with reference to Mexico are destined to fall to the ground, and with their failure Maximilian will disappear from the scene. In all human probability President Juarez will be re-established in the city of Mexico before the termination of the coming year, 1866.

It is not in the nature of things that any settlement of the Mexican question that the United States is not a party to can be a permanent one. It is, therefore, to be regretted that as meanwhile, by the evidence we publish, it is not likely that English commerce will gain anything from the French occupation, the English government has not delayed any complication with the momentary power assumed by Maximilian and waited until the questions at issue shall have been really terminated and the civil war in Mexico closed. It will also, doubtless, be a future source of regret to certain English houses of prominence, whom we have noticed are mixing themselves up with certain bank and railroad schemes with Maximilian, that they had at least not awaited a time when, by the settlement of the question one way or the other, they would have avoided identification with invading forces and illegitimate functionaries, whose expulsion from Mexico will destroy entirely all the supposed validity of the contracts in which they are now investing their money. All acts of the invading government have been repeatedly declared by the constitutional powers of Mexico, whom the United States still recognize as the legitimate government of the country, to be null and void.

As the course of events in the United States shows that Juarez is to be sustained, it follows that the security of operations with Maximilian may be seriously doubted. It is probable, also, that under the tranquility of Mexico, through American auspices, the advantages to English commerce, as in California, will be likely to be much greater than under any French occupation or the precarious rule of an Austrian Archduke. Already within the jurisdiction of Maximilian the duties have been raised to even more than their former rates, and the English bondholders have yet to realize the first cent of dividends since the French occupation; but we confess we did not expect to see under an intervention that claimed to be actuated by such civilizing purposes, so flagrant a violation of the first principles of commercial freedom as that complained of by the Rothschilds and the Barings in their letter to Earl Russell.

## PREPARE FOR A CRASH AMONG BUBBLE STOCK COMPANIES.—The rage for speculation in all sorts of bubble stocks is increasing every day.

Mining, oil, coal and other bogus companies are multiplying by scores, and at this time they may be set down at some three thousand in number in all parts of the country. A perfect mania exists on the subject. This may be attributed to the enormous expansion of the currency, occasioned by the extraordinary issues of government notes and the notes of national banks. A similar condition of things was produced in Great Britain in 1825, resulting there, as well as here, from the undue expansion in gold and silver mines in South America and elsewhere were all the rage in Europe, all of which ended in a catastrophe that swept all the bogus concerns from the face of the earth. In this country, at this time, the excuse for the redundancy of the currency is based upon the presumption that it aids the credit of the government. The contrary is the fact. People have more money, or currency, it is true; but instead of investing their surplus funds in government securities they plant them in some bogus oil, coal or mining company, which is finally sure to burst up. Thus is the government as well as the small capitalist made to suffer by these bubbles. The editor of a leading administration print has written a pamphlet in eulogy of one of these bastard stock

jobbing concerns, and has been made a director in the company as some sort of reward. While this administration editor, therefore, is daily pluming himself upon his influence with the administration, he is endeavoring to divert a supply of the sinews of war—so much needed at this time—from sustaining the credit of the government, its proper direction, to filling the needy coffers of seedy adventurers in oil or mining lands, situated in some barren portion of the country. It is time that some of these bogus patriots and bubble stockjobbers were unmasked. Although the stock companies may withstand the whirlwind, let the uninitiated prepare for a crash among the oil, coal and mining bubbles of the hour, and stand from under in time.

## The General Stamped from the Rebel Armies.

Desertion from all the rebel armies has taken the character of a stampede. It is a subject that has suddenly become of more importance to the enemy than the nigger question, the cotton burning question, the State sovereignty question, or all the other questions together, that the Southern factions have fought over. In all their arguments as to the best way in which they could oppose the Southern leaders of every stripe have assumed the existence of the great Southern armies as fixed points. Lee's army of veterans, that had fought so steadily over Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania, was counted upon as a fact not less positive than the iron mountain in Georgia. It was the same with the other armies. The points that were always in dispute were what use should be made of these armies, how they should be supplied, reinforced and commanded; but these assumed, at the very start, that those armies would remain unchangeable facts. No one doubted that. Those armies were the basis of all rebel argument, and now the Southern leaders suddenly see this basis tremble and begin to melt away. They see Lee's army dribbling out of existence, so that it becomes shadowy and doubtful whether there really is such an army; and not even Lee can tell from day to day what his numbers are. The foundation of all their arguments is shaken and crumbles away. That this is very certainly the case is shown by the extensive and reliable accounts that we give to-day of the deserters coming into our lines everywhere.

Ordinarily desertion is merely one of the diseases of the soldier. It is another expression of the same spirit of discontent and unrest that stimulates the malingering to his many impositions. There has never been an army or an armed force that had no deserters. While on the one hand no cause was ever so bad but men would stick to it, none on the contrary was ever so good or so sacred that men would not abandon it. Even one of the three hundred who ought to have died at Thermopylae with Leonidas, made his appearance alive at Sparta after it was reported that the whole number had been slain. But the desertion that becomes epidemic throughout all the parts of a force that are upholding the same cause is a very different thing. This sort of desertion is not due to the ordinary accidental causes of desertion, which at most would only affect the parts of one or two armies in a limited degree. But it is due to the same general influences, to the same widespread and universal conviction that first puts a whole people in arms. Deceived by their leaders, the Southern people took up arms to fight for what they believed to be their cause. Now they at once see that that cause is hopeless, and that they were deceived in respect to it, and they are laying down their arms by the same general consent and impulse wherever they can, and whenever they can. This is the whole cause of the desertion.

It does appear that the action of the Southern leaders, after the late peace conference at Fortress Monroe, has done more than any other event of recent occurrence to open the eyes of those deluded men. One deserter has even said that that conference broke up Lee's army. It is evident that though Davis wanted better terms than the President could give, an influential part of the Southerners would have been satisfied with those terms. It is worthy of note that Hunter, one of the commissioners, was to be the President whom the submission party desired to put in Davis' place. The Southern army throughout is taking those terms. Many deserters declare that the Southern soldiers would come over without exception if they knew that their treatment would be so good, and it is therefore evident that General Grant's order on the subject of deserters is not as widely known in the Southern armies as it should be. That order is as follows:—

SPECIAL ORDERS—NO. 3.  
HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,  
IN THE FIELD, VIRGINIA, JAN. 4, 1865.  
Hereafter deserters from the Confederate army, who deliver themselves up to the United States forces, will, on taking an oath that they will not again take up arms during the present rebellion, be furnished subsistence and free transportation to their homes, if the same are within the lines of federal occupation. If their homes are not within such lines, they will be furnished subsistence and free transportation to any point in the Northern States, where they may desire to take refuge, and, if they desire it, be given employment in the Quartermaster's and other departments of the army, and the same remuneration paid them as is given to civilian employees for similar services. Military duty, or service endangering them to capture by the Confederate forces, will not be exacted from such as give themselves up to United States military authorities. Deserters who bring arms, horses, mules or other property into our lines with them, will, on delivering the same to the Quartermaster's Department, receive up to the highest price, to be fixed by the commanding general, for such arms, horses, mules and other property as are worth. Railroad employees, telegraph operators, mechanics and other civilians, employed by the Confederate authorities, who desert from their present employment and come into the federal lines will be entitled to all the benefits and immunities of this order. By command of  
T. S. BOWEN, Assistant Adjutant General.

## CIRCULAR NO. 31.

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
WASHINGTON, August 31, 1864.  
Deserters from the rebel army are not subject to enlistment or draft, nor are they acceptable as substitutes or recruits. JAMES B. FRY, Provost Marshal General.  
By command of  
T. S. BOWEN, Assistant Adjutant General.

Unquestionably this order has had great influence where it was known, but it is an order whose importance and whose possible effect make it proper that some special steps should be taken to make it very widely known to the rebel soldiers.

THE LAST CAMDEN AND AMBOY SLAUGHTER.—AN INTELLIGENT JURY.—Since the days of the grave digger in Hamlet, "crowners' quest" law has been a by-word; but never, perhaps, since or before that period, has a more absurd or outrageous verdict been rendered than that of the Bucks county (Pa.) coroner's jury in the case of the fearful slaughter of the soldiers on the Washington train on Tuesday last. The circumstances of this affair are fresh in the memory of the public, and we need not repeat them. The jury found that three men came to their death by a collision of the two trains—a very safe conclusion; but they exonerate all the employees on the train from blame, although

it has been shown that the Philadelphia train had no signal light hung out at two o'clock in the morning, in consequence of which the Washington train rushed into it, smashing up both cars and passengers. Their moderate censure of the switchtender is not less absurd than their whitewashing the employees. It is evident that if such verdicts as this are the only safeguard people have in railroad travelling, the State and national legislatures must lose no time in enacting some laws for public safety.

THE PANIC IN THE GOLD MARKET.—There was a panic yesterday among the gold speculators. The price went down to 186 1/2. Causes: Secretary McCulloch's speech; the fight in Richmond; confirmation of Sheridan's victory; stoppage of shipments to Europe.

## The New Secretary of the Interior.

Day before yesterday Hon. James Harlan, Senator from Iowa, was nominated by the President, and unanimously confirmed by the Senate, as Secretary of the Interior, to succeed the Hon. John Usher, who had tendered his resignation, to take effect on May 1. Mr. Harlan is a resident of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, and was early prominent in the affairs of the Territory of Iowa. Under the State constitution, adopted August 3, 1846, he was chosen, by a joint vote of the Legislature, the first superintendent of a public institution, and held that office until all lands granted by Congress to the State of Iowa, all escheated estates, and the funds arising from the five per cent granted on the sale of the public lands in the State to be applied to the support of common schools. In 1850 he received the whig nomination for Governor, but he believed did not run. On March 4, 1855, Mr. Harlan took his seat in the United States Senate as the successor of General Augustus Dodge. In 1860 he was again chosen for the term commencing March 4, 1861, and ending in 1867. Mr. Harlan was confirmed in his new appointment without previous reference to a standing committee, in accordance with the usual rule in the case of a nominee at the time or previously a member of the Senate. Mr. Harlan will carry into his new office great energy and ability.

WINTER GARDEN.—There will be another Hamlet made at this establishment to-day, and of course, if the weather is fair, another of those pleasant throngs of the city ladies. In the evening the Colleen Bawn will be given for the benefit of Mrs. Chanfrau, whose admirable rendition of the part of Ophelia this winter—until compelled to relinquish it by illness—was one of the many good points in that fine performance.

SUNDAY SACRED CONCERT.—The sixth sacred concert of Mr. Gonzalez, with Madame de Lussan and other eminent artists, will come off to-morrow (Sunday) evening at Irving Hall.

SANDERSON'S CONCERT.—The complimentary concert to Mr. Harry Sanderson, the distinguished young pianist, will take place at Irving Hall this evening. Several well known artists will assist—among them Henry Van Zandt, Mrs. Barclay and Mr. George Simpson, the favorite tenor.

NIBLO'S SALOON.—The tenth grand concert of Niblo de Katow, the celebrated Russian violinist, and Mr. Wehl, the eminent pianist, will take place at Niblo's Saloon on Monday evening, on which occasion Mr. Wehl will play his famous *fantasia* from *Les Huguenots*, which has hitherto given so much satisfaction. Other artists will assist in the vocal part of the concert.

THE HYPOCRISY MATHEW, TO-DAY.—The new Chinese spectacle of the Feast of Lanterns, which has been produced on a scale of grand splendor, with its processions, grand ballet, Chinese dances of the Curiousness, &c., commands the performances at the theatre to-day. Hence those who desire to see it will do well to attend. The pantomime of Mother Goose and the usual equestrian and gymnastic performances will also be given.